

BARNSLEY RURAL
SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. T. SADLER, ESQ., M.D.),

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1897.

BARNSLEY:
R. E. GRIFFITHS, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.
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GENTLEMEN,

THE year ending on December 31st, 1897, was rather warmer than usual in the summer months, and especially mild in the last quarter. There were about 2 inches less rain than the average for the preceeding 25 years, a smaller quantity than usual having fallen in July and October, and the subsoil during the months of July, August, and part of September, reached the temperature at which Diarrhœa is apt to be prevalent, especially in places where the population is more or less crowded.

The only Township in which there has been any obvious increase in the population is that of Cudworth, in which 61 new houses were built during the year, which may be estimated as indicating an increase in the population of about 300, which added to the estimate for 1896 brings it up to 6635.

During the year 265 births were registered, or 39 more than in 1896, giving a birth-rate per thousand for the year of 39·78 on the calculated population.

The deaths were 106 in number, to which have been added 7 amongst persons in the Union Workhouse and Beckett Hospital, belonging to the district, bringing the total up to 113, or at the rate of 17·03 per thousand persons living on the same population.

Of the deaths 47, or 41·59 per cent. of the whole, were amongst infants, being at the rate of 177·35 per thousand births, a decidedly high proportion for a Rural District.

Under 5 years of age there were 65 deaths or 57·52 per cent. of the whole, which again is a rather large proportion.

The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases were 16 in number, or at the rate of 2·41 per thousand persons living. Of these 11 were from Diarrhœa, all in children, and there were 1 each from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Measles, and Whooping Cough. The deaths from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were in Cudworth, and those from Measles, Croup, and Whooping Cough in Carlton. Six of the deaths from Diarrhœa were also in Cudworth, the remainder scattered over the rest of the district.

II.—During the year notifications were received of 40 cases of Infectious Disease, or 73 fewer than in 1896. Each case was visited as soon as possible, and particulars obtained as to the probable source of infection, the sanitary condition of the premises in which it occurred, the amount of bedroom accommodation in the house, what school if any was attended by the children of the house, and the source of the milk and water supply.

In the case of Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever, isolation in the Kendray Hospital was advised, and where the accommodation was insufficient, urged upon those in charge of the patient. Steps were taken for the removal of all sanitary defects and to prevent children from infected houses attending school so long as there was any risk of infection.

Of Scarlet Fever there were 31 cases, of which 16 were in Cudworth, 12 being in March, and the remainder in May, June, September and November. There were 8 in Carlton in February, March, April and May, 4 in Notton during January and June, and 3 in Woolley in January and December, the last-mentioned having been clearly imported from another sanitary district, as were also in all probability some of the cases in Cudworth and Carlton.

Five of the cases in Cudworth, three of those in Carlton, and one of those in Woolley, were removed to the Kendray Hospital.

Diphtheria was only reported in 4 cases, of which 2 were at Stainbro', both adults and both convalescent two days after notification, and 2 at Cudworth, of which one was fatal, as was also the one case of Membranous Croup notified during the year.

Only 2 cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever were notified during the year, both of them being in Cudworth. One of these had been brought into the township, 14 days after his illness began, from another sanitary district, and being a pauper was removed to the Union Workhouse and died; the other patient was taken to the Kendray Hospital and recovered after a serious illness.

There were only 2 cases of Erysipelas, both in Stainbro', in one of which defects in drainage were discovered.

Of diseases not coming under the Notification Act, Measles was somewhat prevalent in Cudworth in March, and spread to Carlton in May, where by June 2nd it had become a serious epidemic, so that I recommended you to order the Schools to be closed for a month. This was done and duly reported to the

County Council and Local Government Board. The month you afterwards prolonged to 6 weeks, with the result that by the end of that time the outbreak had ceased. There was only one death from the complaint in the township.

Whooping Cough was somewhat prevalent in Cudworth in February and March, but the only fatal case was in the adjoining township of Carlton.

Diarrhœa was prevalent in July, August and September, when the temperature of the ground, 4 ft. below the surface, was for 50 days at, or above a temperature of 56°. There were in all 11 deaths from that disease, or at the rate of 1·65 per thousand persons living. Of these 8 were during August and September, and 6 of the whole number were in Cudworth.

III.—The usual systematic inspection of the various townships of your district have been made during the year, and the results reported at your monthly meetings. In March, and on subsequent occasions, I had to report serious defects in the sewerage and water supply of the Staincross Police Station, in the township of Notton; the sewerage was considerably amended, but more difficulty was found in getting a proper water supply, which was the more needed, as here there were water-closets connected with the cells which could not be put into a satisfactory state without an ample supply of water.

Unfortunately, you have in that part of the district no source of supply under your own control, though there are water-mains under the control of another authority, within a short distance. Difficulties were raised about obtaining a supply from this source, and eventually we were told that as a Sanitary Authority you had no power to interfere with Police Stations.

In April and on other occasions, I had to report the various difficulties arising out of the fact that Cudworth, a rapidly increasing place, has not yet a complete system of sewerage, but has to depend to a large extent on cesspools, which soon fill and become a nuisance. Considerable difficulty was found in selecting a suitable system for the disposal of the sewage, without which sanction could not be obtained for the necessary network of sewers, but a plan has now been adopted which it is hoped that the Local Government Board will be able to sanction, and in the meantime a contractor has been engaged to empty the cesspools at frequent intervals.

At Carlton also, I had to report in March and August, and on other occasions, that the attempts made at sewage disposal were not satisfactory in their result, and here also a new scheme has been agreed upon, and land selected for the purpose.

In May I had to report that the roofs and windows of certain houses at Brick Row, Woolley Colliery, were in such a defective state as to render the houses unfit for habitation. Proceedings were threatened, and improvements have been made. I had also to report a continued deficiency in the water supply of the same houses, and notices have now been issued to the lessees, informing them, that in the event of a continued default on their part, the Authority will do what is necessary, and charge them with the cost.

In November, I had to report that in consequence of dry weather the water supply at Billingley was insufficient, but the rain which has since fallen has brought at any rate a temporary improvement.

Finally in December, I had to report unsatisfactory sewage disposal at Hood Green, Stainbro', where an improvement has since been effected.

As a result of the various inspections made during the year, besides many verbal warnings, 62 notices for the abatement of nuisances were served, and 8 others were in hand at the beginning of the year. Of these, 56 were complied with, and 14 were still in hand at the end of the year. In 7 cases your authority was given for legal proceedings to be taken if the nuisance was not abated, but in none were such proceedings actually required.

Twenty-nine sink-water pipes were disconnected during the year, 27 houses were disinfected after the occurrence of Scarlet Fever. Six of the notices were for over-crowding, and 3 for houses unfit for habitation. In 2 cases, fish unfit for food was seized, and 4 samples of milk were sent to the Public Analyst, and all reported to be of fair quality.

During this, and many previous years, I have had to draw your attention to the sanitary evils caused by the porous condition of the surface of the back yards of most of our cottage houses, which could not be properly cleansed, even after the emptying of foul ashpits, and you have now adopted, and asked sanction for a bye-law requiring that all such yards for at least ten feet from the house wall shall be paved with some impervious material.

This bye-law will come into force as soon as the requirements of the Local Government Board have been complied with.

IV.—The condition of the district at the end of the year was satisfactory so far as the absence of infectious diseases was concerned, only 2 imported cases of Scarlet Fever in an isolated house having been notified throughout December.

The water supply is also for the greater part of the district fairly satisfactory, about three-quarters of the inhabitants having water laid on to their houses by pipes from water-mains.

At Cudworth, 481 houses out of 491 are supplied with water from the reservoir of the Barnsley Corporation.

From causes beyond the control of this Authority, there has been during the year, a too frequent intermittency in the supply, but when the new reservoir at Midhope is finished, there is every reason to hope that the difficulties in giving a perfectly constant supply will be got over. With the water itself, no fault can be found.

At Stainbro', the same water is supplied to 107 houses out of 116.

At Carlton, 347 houses out of 377 are supplied from Lord Wharnccliffe's reservoir, and I understand that it is intended to provide a new reservoir in a situation whence the remaining houses can also be reached, and also a part of the township where it is not unlikely that houses will be built in future years.

The greater part of this water is pumped from a colliery sinking, and although rather hard, is shown by the Public Analyst's Report to be free from any signs of contamination, and to be, in fact, very similar to other springs, and to other public supplies obtained from sinkings in the neighbourhood.

The question of obtaining a supply from the Barnsley Corporation has, however, been under consideration, and may again arise in the course of time. At Woolley, there are, as I have previously mentioned, about 40 houses in the highest part of the township, which are inadequately supplied. The case is now in hand. The remainder are supplied from springs in the village, either by gravitation, or from the colliery by pumping. The quality is satisfactory.

Notton, with a comparatively small and scattered population, is partly supplied by the Darton Urban Sanitary Authority, but for the most part by springs, rather inadequate in the higher part of the township, and in another part, not without risk of contamination arising in another sanitary district, which it is hoped will now be abated.

Billingley remains supplied by springs inadequate even for its present population in dry seasons, and likely to be more so if more houses are built. As however, the mains of the Dearne Valley Water Company run through the township, it will not be difficult to remedy the defect in quantity at any rate.

So far as sewerage is concerned there is a fair provision in most of the townships, except that of Cudworth. The difficulties connected with sewage disposal, have prevented the provision of adequate main sewers to take the sewage from the houses recently erected in that township, and consequently there are many cesspools which have required constant attention to keep them from becoming dangerous to health.

In the matter of sewage disposal, no effectual scheme has as yet been actually carried out for any of the townships, and it is by no means easy to find a really suitable method for such a district as ours.

An attempt was made some years ago to dispose of the sewage of a part of Carlton on land, but either on account of the nature of the soil, or for want of proper skilled management, it has proved to be a failure. Disposal on land is easy enough where there is plenty of sandy soil to be had on reasonable terms, but here where clay soil prevails, especially in places which can be reached by gravitation, and land, especially for public purposes, commands a high price, disposal on land is apt to prove a rather costly failure. The various chemical methods are not only expensive to work, but are apt to give a bulky deposit of sludge hard to get rid of, and a more or less putrescible effluent, whilst the bacteriological tanks with breeze filters which just now seem the most promising method for places of small and moderate population, have hardly yet received complete sanction from the authorities whom we have to satisfy.

Plans, however, have now been prepared for the two important townships of Cudworth and Carlton, and if they are sanctioned and are found to work satisfactorily, it will be easy to provide what is really necessary for the remainder of the district.

Until the sewage question is settled it will be impossible to get rid of the Privy system, which is the chief sanitary defect of this and of all other districts in this neighbourhood, nor of the cess-pools in Cudworth and elsewhere.

In the meantime a contractor has been for the past two years employed at Cudworth to keep both ashpits and cesspools in order, and I hope that before long the same will be done at Carlton.

In the rest of the district the owners of property attend to this duty, receiving from time to time reminders from your Sanitary Inspector.

There are 11 Cowsheds in the district registered under your Bye-laws of 1888. They have been duly inspected during the year, and found to be in a fairly good condition.

The Slaughter-houses are six in number ; they have also been regularly inspected, four of them are fairly good, but two will have to be improved or condemned. Unfortunately we have up to the present time no Bye-laws on this subject.

No action has been needed under the Factory and Workshops Acts, the only important establishment in the district coming under them, being the Bleach Works at Cudworth, where a great part of the work is done in the open-air.

None of the trades usually classed as offensive are carried on in this district.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

MICHAEL THOS. SADLER,

(*M.D., Lond.*),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BARNSELY,

FEB. 2ND, 1898.

AREA, 11,276 ACRES. POPULATION 1

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 18
classified according to D

A

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
CUDWORTH	48	23	6	1	4	11	3	Unde 5 up
CARLTON	35	15	9	..	2	5	4	Unde 5 up
NOTTON	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	Unde 5 up
WOOLLEY.. ..	11	5	3	1	..	2	..	Unde 5 up
BILLINGLEY	5	3	..	..	..	2	..	Unde 5 up
STAINBOROUGH ..	5	..	..	.	..	2	3	Unde 5 up
TOTALS	106	47	18	2	6	23	10	Unde 5 up

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken in

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	7	..	..	..	..	6	1	Un 5 u
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Un 5 u

Death-rates { General, 17.03 per 1,000
Infant (under one year)

ensus 4,883, in 1897 estimated 6,635.

the BARNSLEY RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT,

s, Ages, and Localities.

mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children
under Five Years of Age.

Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	7	..	..	15	29
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	2	..	9	19
..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	6	..	..	13	24
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	9	11
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	4	8
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	3
..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	3
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	5
..	..	1	..	1	1	11	3	13	..	..	35	65
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	3	2	23	41

ment in judging of the above records of mortality.

..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	7
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

lation, estimated to middle of 1897.

, 177.35 per 1,000 Births Registered.

B

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Public Health Officer, during the Year 1897, in the BARNSLEY SANITARY DISTRICT, as regards the Causes of Death, Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of the Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Ages under 5 years.
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.		
CUDWORTH ..	1607	2815	246	Under 5 years
CARLTON	1401	1900		Under 5 years
NOTTON	269	280		Under 5 years
WOOLLEY .. .	969	970		Under 5 years
BILLINGLEY ..	195	220	7	Under 5 years
STAINBRO' ..	442	450	12	Under 5 years
TOTALS ..	4883	6635	265	Under 5 years

Notification of Infectious Diseases compulsory from the Isolation Hospital, the Kendray Hospital, &c.

and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS
of the Medical Officer of Health, during
SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.					Number of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.		
Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Workhouse Hospital.
4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	2	..	2	..	5	1	1
4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	..	1	..	..	3	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	4	1	2	2	9	1	1

the District since January 1st, 1890.

ous Diseases, at Ardsley.

